

Appln. No. 09/380,372  
Amd. dated November 5, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled).

6 (Previously presented). The method of Claim 16, wherein the cell differentiation-controlling material is a material controlling differentiation into chondrocytes or adipocytes, a material controlling destruction of cartilage tissues or a material controlling calcification of chondrocytes.

Claims 7-15 (Cancelled).

16 (Previously presented). A method for screening for a cell differentiation-controlling material, comprising:

contacting a compound or a mixture of compounds with the cell line of claim 27 to screen for a cell differentiation-controlling material; and

determining the capability of the compound or the mixture of compounds to induce differentiation of the cell line.

17 (Previously presented). The screening method of claim 16, wherein the material screened for is a gene.

18 (Previously presented). A kit for screening for a cell differentiation-controlling material, comprising the cell line of claim 27 and a reagent for detecting changes of properties of the cell line which may be caused by the action of a candidate cell differentiation-controlling material to be screened.

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Claims 19-26 (Cancelled)

27(Previously presented). The cell line which bears accession no. FERM BP-5823.

28(New). The kit of claim 18, wherein the cell differentiation-controlling material is a material controlling differentiation into chondrocytes or adipocytes, a material controlling destruction of cartilage tissues or a material controlling calcification of chondrocytes.